Video Viewing Guide Questions
The Connecticut State Supreme Court: *The Last Word*

1. **In what year was the Connecticut Supreme Court established?**

The Supreme Court was established in 1784. At that time, it was comprised of members of the executive and legislative branches of government.

2. **Who was the first Supreme Court Justice?**

Stephen Mix Mitchell was the first Connecticut Chief Justice.

3. **How many judges comprise the Connecticut Supreme Court and who is the current Chief Justice of the State of Connecticut Supreme Court?**

Seven justices comprise the Connecticut Supreme Court. The current Chief Justice is William J. Sullivan.

4. **What is the function of the Supreme Court?**

The Supreme Court is an appellate court and reviews decisions made in the Superior Court to determine if any errors of law have been committed

5. **What is a brief?**

A brief is document written by a lawyer that states in writing why he/she believes that a case was properly or improperly decided.

6. **What is an oral argument?**

An oral argument is a time to argue the case.

*(The purpose of the oral argument is to provide an opportunity for the justices to question the lawyers so that they can have a better understanding of the position that is being taken by each party.
The Supreme Court does not hear witnesses or receive evidence. It decides each case on the record of lower court proceedings, the briefs and the oral argument.)*

7. **When would a case be heard by the justices sitting en banc?**

The Chief Justice summons the court to set en banc as a full court of seven, instead of a panel of five, to hear particularly important cases.

8. **What are the three types of opinions and what are the differences between them?**

*   *Majority opinion is an opinion that has the majority vote of the justices and is the final decision of the court.*
*   *Concurring opinion is when justices agree with the outcome of the case, but not the analysis of the majority opinion.*
*   *Dissenting opinion is when one or more judges disagree with the outcome of the majority opinion.*